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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMING

Review and approval of country programmes

THIRD PROGRAMME FOR THE UPPER VOLTA

Note by the Administrator

Programme period	Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986
1983-1986	$55 million

I. Nature of programming activities

1. The third country programme for the Upper Volta, covering the 1983-1986 period, was co-ordinated jointly by the Ministry of Economy and Planning and the UNDP field office at Ouagadougou, in consultation with all the technical ministries and departments of the Government of the Upper Volta and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. The principles that guided the programming were based, on the one hand, on the fact that in order to meet the needs of the country, the co-ordinated assistance provided by the United Nations must be consistent with the basic options, national objectives and priorities for action that the Government of the Upper Volta, in full exercise of its sovereignty had determined and, on the other hand, on the fact, a corollary to the foregoing, that the

* The notes by the Administrator concerning the previous programmes for the Upper Volta have been issued as documents DP/GC/UPV/R.1/RECOMMENDATION and DP/GC/UPV/R.2/RECOMMENDATION.

planning and implementation of the third UNDP co-operation programme (1983-1986) should closely follow the Upper Volta's fourth five-year plan, which is now in preparation.

2. The work of programming actually began in June 1980 with a general review and an evaluation of the ongoing programme (1977-1981), presided over by the Ministry of Planning and involving the high officials of all the technical ministries, the UNDP representatives, some of the executing agents and other institutions of the United Nations system. After an evaluation, both overall and project-by-project, of previously granted international assistance, the necessary conclusions were drawn and a number of recommendations were made for procedures to ensure optimum effectiveness of the country programme for the third cycle.

3. On 25 March 1981, a note by the resident representative proposing prospective areas of concentration for the allocation of UNDP funds under the illustrative indicative planning figure (IPF) for the third programming cycle (1982-1985) was submitted to the Government. The note was accompanied by a list of ongoing projects and proposed new projects. The suggestions made in the note by the resident representative, as well as the country programme, were studied, reviewed and completed by the Government of the Upper Volta during a series of interministerial meetings that led up to the adoption by the Council of Ministers of the sectoral distribution of the IPF (1982-1986) on the basis of the Government priorities proclaimed in the orientation programme address delivered by the President of the Republic at Ouagadougou on 1 May 1981.

4. It should be noted that the programming and evaluation missions sent to the Upper Volta in 1980 and 1981 by the specialized agencies of the United Nations system made an outstanding contribution to the programming of the sectors that concerned them. All the recommendations and suggestions of those programming missions were given due consideration by the Government of the Upper Volta.

5. The final step was an interministerial meeting presided over by the Minister of Economy and Planning that was held on 20 and 21 July 1981. During that meeting, in which the Assistant Administrator of UNDP serving as Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa participated, the sectoral distribution of UNDP assistance decided upon shortly before by the Council of Ministers was confirmed and broken down into specific projects under each sector in the 1983-1986 country programme. The same was done for the budgetary allocations for each sector. In August 1981, the detailed distribution was transmitted to the specialized agencies for their information, comments and further action.

II. Relationship between the country programme and national development objectives

6. The third UNDP programming cycle coincided with the Upper Volta's fourth five-year development plan just as the two preceding cycles had been executed at the same time as the second and third national plans. Following the pattern of the first two cycles, the programme of activities envisaged in the third cycle is modelled closely on the programme address of 1 May 1981, which defined the Government's development priorities and objectives and could be regarded as a preliminary draft for the fourth plan.

7. The sectors which have been given priority by the Government of the Upper Volta and are to receive UNDP third-cycle assistance are not appreciably different from those given priority in the first two cycles, since the Upper Volta continues to be a rural country of agricultural pursuits. The long-term development objectives are the following: food, self-sufficiency and security, accompanied by higher income levels and improved living conditions for the population; water control; natural-resource conservation and soil restoration and improvement; overcoming of the land-locked situation internally and externally; development of the industrial sector and reorganization of the commercial sector.

8. The development objectives chosen by the Government as part of its economic planning policy cover the same areas to which UNDP devoted attention during the meeting of its resident representatives accredited to the Sahelian countries, held at Dakar in January 1981: self-sufficiency in food, water control, physical planning in the Sahel, diversification of the economy and development of human resources.

III. Contents and phasing of the country programme

9. Rural development in the broad sense, comprising agriculture, forestry, fisheries, soil restoration and water control, accounts for about 40 per cent of the programmed resources, once again reflecting the rural pursuits of the country and the political will of its leaders to find rapid solutions for the problems inherent in this sector. The great majority of projects within this sector are ongoing and will be extended in succeeding phases during the third cycle. Some new projects will not be launched before 1984, owing to UNDP's budgetary constraints.

10. The natural-resource sector, which includes the project on mining research (18.6 per cent of programmed resources), is still on the list of priorities, since the Government is still convinced, on the basis of exploratory prospecting, that the country's sub-soil contains riches that can be exploited.

11. The health and social welfare sector was allocated 14 per cent of programmed resources. The assistance of UNDP and of other donors - the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), and bilateral assistance - will go towards developing a basic health programme. UNDP will also continue to assist the promotion of women's participation in development, which dates from 1967. That assistance has focused on creating equal opportunities for women and will be directed in the future towards the integration of women into modern economic activities.

12. The share of industry in the economy of the Upper Volta (6 per cent of all resources) is proportionate to the limited potential of the country in this sector. UNDP assistance to the industrial sector has thus far been concerned with the establishment of an infrastructure that will make possible the promotion of Upper Volta industry within the branches to be found in the country's two main cities, Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso.

13. The remaining resources (21.4 per cent) are channeled towards the sectors of education, employment, science and technology, and development planning, which have no less priority than those mentioned above in a country where a very low level of performance is the common characteristic of all economic sectors. The main projects planned in these sectors relate to education and reform of the educational system, appropriate technologies, renewable sources of energy, women's handicrafts, and assistance in planning.

IV. Particular problems pertaining to development

14. One of the great handicaps in the development of the country remains its land-locked situation, which is both internal and external. Other difficulties result from the very unfavourable climatic conditions, the poor soil quality, the archaic systems of cultivation and the embryonic nature of both infrastructures and industry. The Government has therefore invited UNDP to increase its collaboration with its own development efforts by providing assistance in organizing a round-table of financial backers, which it is hoped will make it possible to raise the funds needed to execute the fourth five-year plan (1983-1987).